**Blogging Assignment**

Throughout the course of the semester you will be responsible for developing a personal blog on Blogger or BlogSpot. This blog should pertain to a field of literary criticism or scholarship. The goal for the assignment is for your blog to obtain followers by operating within a certain niche in a literary field. You can blog about poetry, fiction, drama, or art. The important thing is that your blog center around a central theme. It is important to obtain a followership for your blog, but it is also important that you seek out blogs that adhere to themes similar to your own and establish communication with these blogs.

**Part I: Your Blog**

**Directed Question**

You should begin carving out your blog niche by asking a focused and directed question about literature. This question should be general and broad enough to lead to a more specific “theme” for your blog.

For example, my question might be, “What is the common link underlying the similar conventions and motifs of fiction?” This directed question should appear in italics beneath the title and subtitle of every blog post.

**Theme and Specific Topic**

Your blog theme should become the title of your blog itself. For example, my blog “theme” might be “Jungian Archetypes in Fiction”. This theme would also be the title appearing at the top of each blog post. Each blog post would discuss a different topic. Whatever specific topic was being discussed in that particular blog post would be the subtitle for that post.

**Posts**

Your blog should consist of 5 posts of no Less than 500 words per post. Each post should adhere to modern conventions of proper grammar, usage, syntax, spelling, structure, organization, and development. Contrary to much online writing, your post will be a polished product. Your posts should be somewhat opinionated in order to elicit response. Don’t be afraid to take a stand, but, remember that your writing should be substantiated by evidence.

A typical blog post then might start off looking something like this:

Jungian Archetypes in Fiction (Theme-will stay the same for all 5 posts): The Archetypes of Disney Movies (Specific Topic--will change from post to post)

*What is the common link underlying the similar conventions and motifs of fiction?* (Directed Question--should be repeated at the head of every post as a reminder)

Many Disney movies make use of motifs that many may falsely hold to be somewhat novel, yet a further inspection of said motifs in light of the history of folklore will show them to be constructed of conventions that are at least as old as story itself. Furthermore, these motifs, or archetypes, to use another term perhaps without doing it much justice, are metaphorical reflections of basic structures of the human psyche. Take for example the archetype of the “hostile brethren”. We see this motif used to great effect in Disney’s *The Lion King*, but it is actually very old: we can trace its origins far back to the Biblical story of Cain and Able, or Jacob and the brothers who sold him into slavery, or further back still to the Egyptian hieroglyphs depicting the battle between the brothers Set and Osiris. Beyond just being imminently old however, the motif also resonates with the basic structure of the human psyche, in that a part of every human seeks to compete, even, nay especially, with his own blood…

**Part II: Your Responses to Other Blogs**

Part II of the blogging assignment requires that you respond to at least 2 blog posts from blogs with a theme similar to yours. Each of these two responses should be no less than 100 words.

Here is the format you will be using to comment on the posts of other blogs:

Dear [Writer’s Name]:

I [past tense verb showing emotion] your message, “[Exact Title],” because... [add 2 or 3 sentences]

One sentence you wrote that stands out for me is: “[Quote from Message.]” I think this is [adjective] because... [add 1 or 2 sentences]

Another sentence that I [past tense verb] was: “[Quote from message].” This stood out for me because...

I do/don’t agree with you that... One reason I say this is... Another reason I agree/disagree with you is...

Thanks for your writing. I look forward to seeing what you write next, because... [add 2 or 3 sentences explaining what will bring you back to see more about this person’s thoughts.]

**Assessment**

A hard copy of each of your blog posts as well as a hard copy of each blog post you are responding to as well as your response should be submitted to the D2L drop box by the date listed on the syllabus.

Your blog will be assessed according to the following criteria:

Blog Rubric

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Grading Category | Possible Points | Earned Points |
| Directed Question | 20 |  |
| Theme, Topic, and Posts | 50 |  |
| Followership | 10 |  |
| Group Interaction | 20 |  |